

# **VIP**

## **VOLUNTEERS IN PREVENTION/PROBATION**

### **GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

May-June, 2011  
Volume 40, Issue 3



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#### **Welcome New CASA Volunteers**

Congratulations to our new Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers. They will serve as a voice for children in neglect and abuse court cases.

CASA volunteers receive intensive training in a 30 hour curriculum which includes topics such as information on cultural awareness, domestic violence, understanding children and families, communication, monitoring and reporting and the law.

Matt Bertrand  
Roy Bernier  
Barb Disborough  
Renee Heinz  
Sharon Herron  
Natalie Terrell  
Mary Jo Zazueta

Robyn Bowden  
Ron Chrivia  
Katie Dockery  
Mike Herron  
Christine Pion  
Heidi Vos

Thank you to our CASA training team for sharing their time and talent: Christie Lypka, Cathy Bingham-Olson, Carolyn Bearinger, Amber Ligon, Jill Kimball, Barb Cross, Amanda Steele and Nina Merten and CASA volunteers Diana Zapalski and Barb Nelson-Hooper.

Honorable David L. Stowe will conduct the swearing in ceremony on May 3, 2011, followed by a reception for volunteers and attending family members.



#### **Infant Mental Health In-Service**

A special in-service training meeting was held on Tuesday, April 19. Infant and child mental health specialist Joan Shirilla, was our guest. Joan shared with mostly Learning Partner and CASA volunteers that social emotional development is the foundation of all learning and that it occurs within relationships.

This presentation is timely as this conversation gears up in our community about the Mental Health Court for delinquent youth and "The Baby Court" for neglect/abuse cases. We want to thank Joan for sharing her expertise and thank 18 Probate and Family court volunteers who attended for their interest and attention to this important topic.

#### **Attention Volunteers!**

You and a guest are invited to attend a Community Volunteer Recognition Event at the State Theatre. The academy award winning movie "Blind Side" will be shown at no charge.

**Sunday, May 15, 2011**

**1:00 pm**

**State Theatre, Downtown Traverse City**

**Please call 231-922-4827 to reserve your tickets.** Only 2 tickets per volunteer will be available. A popcorn and soda will be available for your purchase at a discounted price of \$2.00 at the theatre.

Come and join volunteers from other organizations in Traverse City to enjoy an afternoon together.

# Happy Birthday



## May

Keith Counsell	Dick Gove
Russ Wright	Libby Robold
Sharon Studinger	Marge Brehmer
Mike Wildman	Nancy Gagnon
Karrilee Walter	Christine Pion
Amanda Kohler	Mary Jane Nicola
Carrie Brown	

## June

Barbara Winburne	Jean Howell
Barbara Woodruff	James Maitland
Barb Nelson-Hooper	Jan Meyer
Deborah Zerafa	Carol Wright
Susan Schweikart	Donna Gonder
Melva Christunas	Siri Salonen
Heather Flannery	Marilyn Jensen

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## Thoughts and Prayers

We are saddened by the passing of our friends Rex Matzinger and Dr. Bill Fishbeck.

Rex volunteered alongside his wife Dorothy, as a friend and guardian to seniors. We remember him as one who talked about his love of family and his lovely cottage on the lake.

Bill Fishbeck was a thoughtful, kind and gracious gentleman who brought his wealth of life experience and lessons to youth he monitored on probation.

They were great guys who added a great deal to our lives and others.

## Items Needed for New Vision Academy

Volunteer Services is gearing up for New Vision Academy this summer and we have an exciting new project to present to our kids.

The project is rug making with sheets. Diana Zapalski introduced us to this unique way to make lovely rugs. We will need sheets of any color, they do not need to be new but in good condition. If you can donate a sheet or two, please drop them at Volunteer Services Office any time you are in the neighborhood.

And, it's not too late to join our New Vision Academy team. Facilitators and program ideas are still needed!

## Thanks Volunteers!



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## Special Thoughts



Sharon Wright, wife of long-time volunteer Russ Wright has recently been very ill. We hope recovery is speedy and complete.

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## Save The Date Field Trip For Guardians

A trip to Traverse City Tendercare is planned for:

**Thursday, June 9, 2011  
3:30 pm**

We will get a tour of their remodeled facility and meet with a social worker and more.

Please call us at 231-922-4827 for details.



Learning Partners are busy with some fun activities for the remainder of the school year.

The Swimming & Water Safety Lessons is running for 6 Friday sessions, concluding on May 20, 2011. Learning Partners and their siblings in grades kindergarten through the sixth grade are learning swimming and water safety at the Civic Center.

We have 19 students learning new skills and having fun while many parents and volunteers support them. One newly-inspired parent has now purchased a family pass to the Civic Center Pool and has begun taking the entire family. His experience with our program helped bring his family together in a new favorite activity!

Congratulations to all of the volunteers that help make this happen for our kids! It's working!

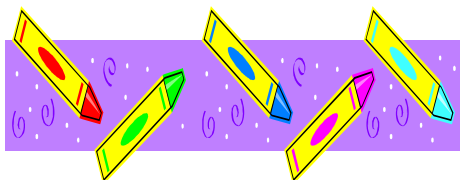
On Saturday, May 7, 2011, Learning Partners will participate in an event called Baking for Mom. This is a special baking and craft day for the whole family, taking place from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. This out-of-classroom positive learning opportunity is designed to give kids the opportunity to do something nice for others while learning a new skill. Thank you to volunteer Ronda Franklin for suggesting and coordinating it!

If you need a permission slip or more information, please call 231-922-4827.

Thank you Learning Partner volunteers on and off the ice for supervision ice skating and transporting kids.

Special thanks to Junior Honor Society members Allie Shumate, Cassidy Merten and Rachel Creamer.

*Thank you to Centre Ice for the incredible donation of skate rentals and ice time!*



## CASA

At our May 17 monthly meeting of CASA volunteers we will welcome Suzanne Brainard, Foster Care supervisor for Bethany Christian Services. Suzanne will discuss their foster care program and provide us with general information on the services provided by that agency. This is a great opportunity to bring your questions and to hear, first hand, about how we can best work with Bethany foster care workers.

On June 20, Janet Kronk, Child Care Specialist from our Family Court Administration office will join us to share the elements involved in scheduled court hearings, trials, how notices are sent, and state guidelines which guide these actions.

Please join us for these valuable in-service opportunities.

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## Learning Partners learn new skills



The ice skating party was enjoyed by Learning Partners and their families.

Learning Partner kids learn basic water safety.





## Great Golf Outings!

Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center will host the 5th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Golf Outing on **May 21, 2011**.

The outing will be held at the Crown Golf Club Traverse City, 9:00 a. m. shotgun start.

For more information please call 231-929-4250 or go to [www.traversebaycac.org](http://www.traversebaycac.org) to register online.

The Zonta Club Golf Outing will be held at the GT Resort, Wolverine Course on **June 16, 2011**.

Join the fun to raise funds for local agencies.

## Festival of Tables

The 10th Annual Festival of Tables will be presented on **Friday evening, May 13 and Saturday, May 14, 2011**.

This event is to benefit Child & Family Services, and will be held at The Hagerty Center, Traverse City.

For more information visit [www.festivaloftables.org](http://www.festivaloftables.org).



## Northwestern Michigan College

**Annual Barbecue will be held**

**Sunday, May 22, 2011**

**Call 231-995-1700  
For ticket information**



## New Transport Vehicle

Volunteer Services, with the help of the Sheriff's Department and our Finance Director, recently obtained a new transport vehicle. Volunteer transporters drive county owned vehicles to and from secure and non-secure detention homes when requested by our Juvenile Probation staff. Probation officers request a transport for a youth, typically a response to a violation of Probation. Forty-four transports have been successfully completed from January 1 through April 8, 2011.

We would like to thank Dean Bott and Lt. Brian Marrow for helping us make this happen.

Many thanks to our volunteers who respond, sometimes with short notice, to drive youth safely to placement.

**Free Community Open House  
To Celebrate the Announcement of the  
2011-2012 Auto-Owners Performing Arts Series**

**Sunday, May 1, 2011, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**City Opera House**

**Call 231-941-8082 for information**



## Taste of Grand Traverse

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**

**12:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Great Wolf Lodge Conference Center**

**Featuring 20 area restaurants, and  
Entertainment**

Benefit for The Women's Resource Center  
Call 231-941-1210 for more information

Barbara Wilkins  
Val Doman  
Jim Valko  
Bettie Wilkins  
Alex Moore  
Thad Saur  
Donna Thoma

Al Wilkins  
Jim Doman  
John Wilkins  
Wilma Birdsall  
Dave Speirs  
Ed Thoma





# GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



I read somewhere (I'm sure I read it!) that it is spring, but 20 inches of snow in the last 30 odd days has me wondering. Speaking of spring, GTALC completed it's spring tutor training workshop and for the first time in a number of years the trainer was one of our own board members. GTALC board Vice President Mary DeGrazia led the training session and was supported by Karen Conrad who has also taken tutor training.

Another one of our board, Tom Young, shared his experiences with placement of learners at work and several other board members were present (Nancy Thompson, Linda Frank, Denny Everett and yours truly). Lastly, one of our tutors, Eleanor Miller and her two ESL learners were there to share their experiences as well. Seven new tutors were qualified in this session.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please call the GTALC offices (231-922-4574) or email us at [gtalc22@gmail.com](mailto:gtalc22@gmail.com).

At a recent GTALC board meeting, senior board member Linda Fawcett, provided an informative history of both her own involvement in GTALC ( a Laubach trained tutor and staunch supporter from the very beginning of the literacy council) and the Probate and Family Court involvement in and support of GTALC.

Those of you who read this newsletter regularly know that Linda is the Director of Probate and Family Court Volunteer Services. She recounted the history of this relationship spanning the support of three judges. Linda further explained that Judge Stowe continues this judicial support recognizing the importance of literacy skills for adults as low reading skills impact not only reading ability, but also immediate family members and succeeding generations.

GTALC's annual book sale which was held April 15th and 16th was a huge success. Between 10,000 and 14,000 books, CDs, DVDs, and games were collected by students in area schools who were competing with other schools for cash awards provided by Grand Traverse Mall. GTALC's conducts the sale in a store front provided by the Mall and collects all the proceeds from the sale, just under \$3,000. Additionally, employees from Kohl's volunteer in the sale and Kohl's provides an award to GTALC based on the number of Kohl's employees involved. GTALC volunteer extraordinaire, Alinka Lipchinsky, was the organizer and supervised all aspects of the sale (her 3rd year!).

Lastly, if you like movies at the State Theater, there is another way you can support GTALC by volunteering to work at the State Theater the first Sunday of each month and you get a free pass for another viewing.

Dick Thompson, President  
Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council





GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
 DAVID L. STOWE, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE  
 280 Washington St, Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684  
 922-4827

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ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT VOLUNTEER SERVICES  
 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

**LEARNING PARTNERS**

1st Tuesday—4:00—5:00 pm

**No Meeting in May**  
**Tuesday, June 7**



**CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – 4:00 – 6:00 pm

**Tuesday, May 17**

Suzanne Brainard, Bethany

**Tuesday, June 21**

Janet Kronk, Family Court  
 Administration



**LITERACY COUNCIL**

3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday – 6:00 pm

Traverse Area District Library

**Wednesday, May 18**

**Wednesday, June 15**



**Mother's Day**  
**Sunday, May 8, 2011**



**Memorial Day**  
**Monday, May 30, 2011**  
**Volunteer Services**  
**Offices Closed**



**Flag Day**  
**June 14, 2011**



**Father's Day**  
**Sunday, June 19, 2011**

